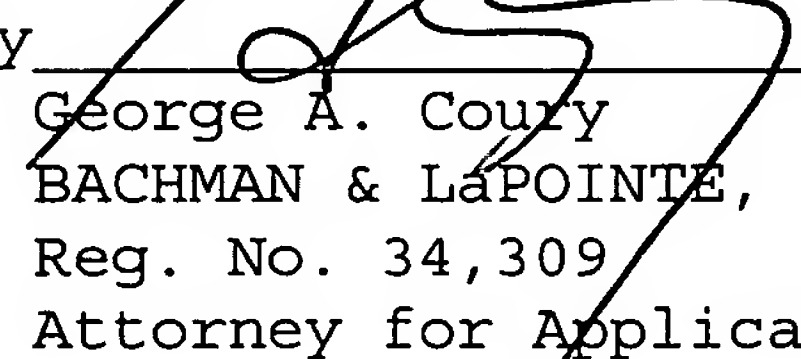


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By the present amendment, multiple dependent claims have been removed.

An early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
George A. Coury  
BACHMAN & LAPOINTE, P.C.  
Reg. No. 34,309  
Attorney for Applicants

Telephone: (203) 777-6628 ext. 113  
Telefax: (203) 865-0297  
Email: docket@bachlap.com

Date: August 21, 2006

I, Rhonda B. Longo, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on August 21, 2006.



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